

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: "NEW DIALOGUE"

FOR IOP/M, ILA

1. IN LEAD EDITORIAL JANUARY 25 MAJOR DAILY TRINIDAD GUARDIAN EDITORIALIZED THAT "NEW DIALOGUE IN TROUBLE." BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW.

2. LATIN AMERICA STILL HAS A LOW PRIORITY IN UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY. IT IS ONLY NOW THAT HIS "NEW DIALOGUE" PROPOSAL HAS SOURED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER PLANS A QUICK TOUR OF FIVE LATIN AMERICAN CAPITALS IN THE HOPE OF SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT. THERE WAS NOT A DISSENTING VOICE THURSDAY NIGHT WHEN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES CONDEMNED THE NEW UNITED STATES TRADE ACT AS "DISCRIMINATORY AND COERCIVE" AND "A CAUSE OF DETERIORATION OF INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY." THE UNITED STATES ABSTAINED WHILE BOLIVIA AND HAITI WERE ABSENT; TWENTY STATES VOTED FOR CONDEMNATION.

3. THE ACT BANS VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM BEING ACCORDED FAVOURABLE TREATMENT SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES, THE FACT THAT THEY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OIL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE ARAB MEMBERS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL TO RELINQUISH OCCUPIED TERRITORY MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT ON TELEVISION SHORTLY AFTER THE O.A.S. COUNCIL'S CONDEMNATION THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR PARTICIPATING

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IN A NEW OIL EMBARGO IS NOT CALCULATED TO SMOOTH ALREADY RUFFLED

LATIN AMERICAN FEELINGS.

4. DR. KISSINGER'S "NEW DIALOGUE" WAS ALREADY BEING DISCOUNTED AND BOYCOTTS HAD ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED OF THE THIRD ROUND SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH HE CAN SALVAGE IN NEXT MONTH'S TOUR OF THE CAPITALS OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, PERU AND VENEZUELA IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT STORMY CLIMATE.

5. IF THE VISIT COMES OFF HE WILL MEET A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER IN CARACAS IN PLACE OF DR. EFRAIN SCHACHT ARISTIGUIETA WHO HAS BEEN SHIFTED IN THE VENEZUELAN CABINET RESHUFFLE MARKED BY THE TRANSFER OF THE INTERIOR MINISTER IN THE WAKE OF THE MASS ESCAPE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY JAIL. DR. SCHACHT'S CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION FOR LIFTING ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SANCTIONS ON CUBA SUFFERED A SEVERE SETBACK AT THE 15TH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN QUITO LAST NOVEMBER THROUGH FAILURE BY TWO VOTES TO MUSTER THE REQUISITE TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF PARTIES IN FAVOUR. THIS WAS A SERIOUS MISCALCULATION. MULLIGAN

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